The New Groundsmaster® 7200
A zero radius turn mower rugged enough to be a Groundsmaster. Start with a PTO shaft-driven mower deck and the industry’s toughest spindle assembly. Add a direct drive hydro transmission with a wet disc clutch, and a liquid-cooled diesel engine. Plus, Groundsmaster tough. With the added versatility of removing snow, greenworn infills and blowing leaves. For more information, visit toro.com/gm7200.

The New Groundsmaster® 7200
A zero radius turn mower rugged enough to be a Groundsmaster. Start with a PTO shaft-driven mower deck and the industry’s toughest spindle assembly. Add a direct drive hydro transmission with a wet disc clutch, and a liquid-cooled diesel engine. Plus, Groundsmaster tough. With the added versatility of removing snow, greenworn infills and blowing leaves. For more information, visit toro.com/gm7200.

TRI STATE ATHLETIC FIELD SERVICES™
PHONE: (201) 760-9700 (NJ) • PHONE: (973) 238-0444 (NJ)
FAX: (201) 760-9791 (NJ)
Visit us at: www.tristateathletic.com
Specializing in Athletic Field Design, Construction and Maintenance

“PLAY IT CALL TRI STATE”™
National Award Winning Turf Programs

OTHER INVESTMENT SERVICES & SUPPLIES
• PROJECT MANAGERS
• TOPDRESSING
• TOPSOIL
• CORE AERATION
• SEED AND SOD
• CLAY DRYING MATERIAL
• PORTABLE LIGHT RENTALS
• FIELD GROOMING
• FIELD LINING
• FIELD BASES
• FIELD MARKING PAINT
• INFIELD CLAY
• WARNING TRACKS
• GEESE CONTROL

SYNTHETIC FIELDS INSTALLED & REPAIRED
Licensed, Insured & Bonded

November/December 2006
Currently we have 323 new & renewed members. SFMANJ will be mailing invoices shortly for 2007 membership dues to all current members. Please remember to mail your renewal/payment direct to:
SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801.

Joe Murray - Murray Hydroseeding, LLC
Bill Warner - O.A. Newton and Son, Co.

**2006 SFMANJ Board of Directors**

President ............................................. Ken Mathis, Brick Township Parks
Vice President .............................. Don Savard, CSFM, CGM, Salesianum School
Secretary ................................. Ryan Radcliffe, Lakewood Blueclaws
Treasurer ............................... Jim Gates, Jim Gates & Co., Inc

**D IRECTORS**
Fred Castenschiold ....................... Storr Tractor Co.
Jeff Cramer .............................. Howell Township
Jim Hermann, CSFM .................... Total Control, Inc.
Brad Park ............................ Rutgers University
Karl “Chuckie” Singer .................. City of Bayonne
Craig Tolley .................... County College of Morris
Sean Connell .................... Georgia Golf Construction

Advisor: ................................................................. Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University
Past President: ............................ Eleanora Hermann, CRS
Executive Secretary: ......................... Kathie Hopfel

**MISSION STATEMENT:**
Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

**Contact us at:**
PO Box 370 • Annandale, NJ 08801
Web site: www.sfmanj.org
Email: hq@sfmanj.org
Ph/fax: 908-730-7770

National Organization
Sports Turf Managers Association
www.sportsturfmanager.org
Email: stmainfo@sportsturfmanager.org
Phone: 800-323-3875

**Inside This Issue**
Welcome New & Renewed Members .................... 3
Membership Form ................................... 3
SFMANJ Board of Directors ............................ 3
New Jersey Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2006: Sports Field Managers Program ............. 5
Outsourcing Grounds Maintenance Services .............. 8
Rutgers Corner - Seed and Fertilizer
How much was applied? ............................. 9
2006 Proud Sponsor Directory ......................... 10
Do Your Athletic Fields Need Turf Blankets? ............. 11
Applying Gypsum - When it is Really Needed .......... 14
Looking for Success? Look no Further...Your Staff ....... 16
Calendar of Events .................................. 17
Year in Review ...................................... 18

This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
SFMANJ at (908) 730-7770 or Brad Park at (732) 932-9711, x127

**Editor**
Brad Park, Rutgers University
Email: park@aesop.rutgers.edu

SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.
A total of two core credits and four Category 1B credits will be available to the Certified Pesticide Applicators in attendance during the sports field managers’ sessions. Offering applicators the recertification credits needed for their jobs is an important aspect of Expo.

Because synthetic surfaces are becoming a greater part of the sports field landscape, Expo has again been designed to address the issue of synthetic fields. Joel Taylor, Haddonfield Township, will follow by describing his experiences with a synthetic infill system one year after installation. These synthetic talks are scheduled for Tuesday, December 5 as part of a session beginning at 9:00 am.

Expo 2006 will also feature an Early Bird Sports Field Managers Networking Roundtable. Based on its success in 2005, a similar Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 am. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A hallmark of the annual Expo is the trade show. The trade show grand opening will be at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, December 6 with free food and beverages to be served. The partnership between NJTA and NJLCA will have the effect of bringing many new vendors to Expo 2006. The trade show is also scheduled for Thursday, December 7 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Lunch will be served on the trade show floor.

Registration for Expo 2006 is easy! Registration can be done online by visiting www.njturfgrass.org or printable mail-in registration forms can be accessed on this site. Additional information can be obtained by calling 215-757-6582. See you in Atlantic City!

* Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

- Yankee Stadium: Did you know?

Yankee Stadium is located at 161st Street and River Avenue, Bronx, NY and is accessible by the B, D, a 4 NYC Subway trains.

---

**Calendars of Events**

**NJ Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2006**
December 5-7, 2006
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort
Atlantic City, NJ
(215) 757-6582
Expo 2006 will feature online registration at: www.njturfgrass.org

**18th Annual Sports Turf Managers Association Conference and Exhibition**
January 17-20, 2007
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, TX
1-800-323-3875
Online registration at: www.sportsturfmanager.org

**Three-Day Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance**
February 27-March 1, 2007
Rutgers University - Office of Continuing Professional Education
Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ
732-932-9271
www.cookece.rutgers.edu

**Understanding Synthetic Fields**
March 7, 2007
Rutgers University - Office of Continuing Professional Education
Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ
732-932-9271
www.cookece.rutgers.edu

**Baseball/Softball Infield Skin Construction and Management**
March 14, 2007
Rutgers University - Office of Continuing Professional Education
Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm, Pittstown, NJ
732-932-9271
www.cookece.rutgers.edu

---

**Crop Production Services**
Profit From Our Experience
Agronomic Products / Services
Seed • Fertilizer • Lime • Soil Testing • Pest Control Products • Custom Applications

Crop Production Services, Inc.
127 Perryville Road
Pittstown, NJ 08867
Toll Free: 1-888-828-5545
Bus: (908) 735-5545
Fax: (908) 735-6231
766 Rt. 524
Allentown, NJ 08501
(609) 259-7204

**NATIONAL SEED**
PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS
Specializing in Quality
Grass Seed to Meet All Your Turf Performance Standards
Call For a Catalog
800-828-5856
Carry a full line of quality mixtures
especially formulated for:
SPORTS & ATHLETIC FIELDS
LOW MAINTENANCE AREAS
GENERAL GROUNDS
GOLF, LAWN & RECLAMATION
Technical Agronomic Support and Custom Blending Available

---

**YANKEE STADIUM: DID YOU KNOW?**

Yankee Stadium is located at 161st Street and River Avenue, Bronx, NY and is accessible by the B, D, a 4 NYC Subway trains.
Your staff has a significant impact on your success. The work that they do is a direct reflection on you, your ability to train, to motivate and to lead. Reaching the goals of your facility is only possible through good management of your people and their continued development. To make sure you are fully embracing the talents of your staff, use these simple techniques.

Top 10 Strategies to Engage Your Staff

1. Seek input and listen. Your staff is a great resource for ideas and improvements. Asking for their opinions and solutions to problems, truly listening to them, and implementing as appropriate, strengthens their commitment to you and to their job. Involving your staff in decision making builds loyalty and improves retention.

2. Set expectations. Clearly and consistently set expectations for each employee through jointly written performance objectives. Good performance can’t happen if they do not understand what you expect. Reinforce your expectations verbally.

3. Provide continuous feedback. Praise accomplishments, large and small, and for those projects that weren’t as successful, use them as learning experiences to find out what could have been done differently. Don’t wait until the end of the year at performance time to express dissatisfaction.

4. Show appreciation. Just say “thank you!” When you reward and acknowledge good behavior, you get more of the same. Publicly acknowledge your staff for doing a good job, and look for other ways to reward their efforts. According to a Harris Poll, the top three satisfaction drivers for employees are control over their work; the opportunity to use their talents and skills; and recognition and appreciation.

5. Be accessible. By being visible and available, you send the message that you are part of the team and are ready to support their efforts to get the job done.

6. Train, Train, Train. Training in the correct procedures and equipment use is critical to getting the job done right, but also for health and safety reasons. The continuous upgrading of skills also provides employees with the means for promotion. Consider training opportunities in areas outside of their core responsibilities, such as in writing skills, public speaking, customer service, business management, etc. You and your facility will reap many benefits from improving their “softer” skills.

7. Empower your staff. Give them as much information as possible about what and why, and allow them to make decisions appropriate to their work.

8. Provide a safe and comfortable working environment. Don’t expect employees to use outdated or faulty equipment. With anxieties at an all time high regarding increased terrorist activity, make sure you have emergency procedures in place to protect the workforce in the event of an attack, and ensure that every employee is aware of these procedures.

9. Treat with respect. Respect and accept each person as an important member of the team.

10. Inspire your staff. Be a coach and a cheerleader. Be sure your boss knows about the good work they do. When you help them succeed, you succeed.

*This article is compliments of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Laurence, KS.

DID YOU KNOW?
The term field capacity refers to the amount of moisture remaining in the soil after gravitational moisture has drained.

LOOKING FOR SUCCESS?
Look no further than...YOUR STAFF!

STMA Editorial Staff*

YOUR STAFF is a great resource for ideas and improvements. Asking for their opinions and solutions to problems, truly listening to them, and implementing as appropriate, strengthens their commitment to you and to their job. Involving your staff in decision making builds loyalty and improves retention.

Top 10 Strategies to Engage Your Staff

1. Seek input and listen. Your staff is a great resource for ideas and improvements. Asking for their opinions and solutions to problems, truly listening to them, and implementing as appropriate, strengthens their commitment to you and to their job. Involving your staff in decision making builds loyalty and improves retention.

2. Set expectations. Clearly and consistently set expectations for each employee through jointly written performance objectives. Good performance can’t happen if they do not understand what you expect. Reinforce your expectations verbally.

3. Provide continuous feedback. Praise accomplishments, large and small, and for those projects that weren’t as successful, use them as learning experiences to find out what could have been done differently. Don’t wait until the end of the year at performance time to express dissatisfaction.

4. Show appreciation. Just say “thank you!” When you reward and acknowledge good behavior, you get more of the same. Publicly acknowledge your staff for doing a good job, and look for other ways to reward their efforts. According to a Harris Poll, the top three satisfaction drivers for employees are control over their work; the opportunity to use their talents and skills; and recognition and appreciation.

5. Be accessible. By being visible and available, you send the message that you are part of the team and are ready to support their efforts to get the job done.

6. Train, Train, Train. Training in the correct procedures and equipment use is critical to getting the job done right, but also for health and safety reasons. The continuous upgrading of skills also provides employees with the means for promotion. Consider training opportunities in areas outside of their core responsibilities, such as in writing skills, public speaking, customer service, business management, etc. You and your facility will reap many benefits from improving their “softer” skills.

7. Empower your staff. Give them as much information as possible about what and why, and allow them to make decisions appropriate to their work.

8. Provide a safe and comfortable working environment. Don’t expect employees to use outdated or faulty equipment. With anxieties at an all time high regarding increased terrorist activity, make sure you have emergency procedures in place to protect the workforce in the event of an attack, and ensure that every employee is aware of these procedures.

9. Treat with respect. Respect and accept each person as an important member of the team.

10. Inspire your staff. Be a coach and a cheerleader. Be sure your boss knows about the good work they do. When you help them succeed, you succeed.

*This article is compliments of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Laurence, KS.

Proper training in the correct procedures and equipment use is critical to getting the job done right, but also for health and safety reasons. The continuous upgrading of skills also provides employees with the means for promotion. Consider training opportunities in areas outside of their core responsibilities, such as in writing skills, public speaking, customer service, business management, etc. You and your facility will reap many benefits from improving their “softer” skills.

Provide a safe and comfortable working environment. Don’t expect employees to use outdated or faulty equipment. With anxieties at an all time high regarding increased terrorist activity, make sure you have emergency procedures in place to protect the workforce in the event of an attack, and ensure that every employee is aware of these procedures.

Treat with respect. Respect and accept each person as an important member of the team.

Inspire your staff. Be a coach and a cheerleader. Be sure your boss knows about the good work they do. When you help them succeed, you succeed.

Proper training in the correct procedures and equipment use is critical to getting the job done right, but also for health and safety reasons. The continuous upgrading of skills also provides employees with the means for promotion. Consider training opportunities in areas outside of their core responsibilities, such as in writing skills, public speaking, customer service, business management, etc. You and your facility will reap many benefits from improving their “softer” skills.

Provide a safe and comfortable working environment. Don’t expect employees to use outdated or faulty equipment. With anxieties at an all time high regarding increased terrorist activity, make sure you have emergency procedures in place to protect the workforce in the event of an attack, and ensure that every employee is aware of these procedures.

Treat with respect. Respect and accept each person as an important member of the team.

Inspire your staff. Be a coach and a cheerleader. Be sure your boss knows about the good work they do. When you help them succeed, you succeed.
Dr. Henry W. Indyk Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Science

As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2006. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to ensure that his legacy lives on. The single family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass science. This fellowship is being created to ensure that tomorrow’s graduate students have the financial resources to obtain an advanced degree in turfgrass science at Rutgers University. To fund this fellowship, a fundraising campaign is being launched. Contributions will be gratefully accepted. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Rutgers University Foundation, 1 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-5276. Be sure to indicate “Henry Indyk Fellowship, Turfgrass” in the name portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form of a pledge payable over several years. For additional information, please contact Dr. Bruce B. Carline, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science (732) 932-9435, ext. 131; or dbruce@stone.rutgers.edu or John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling (732) 932-7606 or email: jpearson@rrc.state.nj.us

GEORGIA GOLF CONSTRUCTION, INC. (Located in Telford, New Jersey)

Golf Course & Athletic Field Construction
- Greens - Tee - Bunkers - Fairways
- All Athletic Playing Fields
- Shaping - Drainage - Irrigation - Grassing
- Laser Leveling (1 day service available)
- Earthworks Takeoff! Estimating Software
- \n
Call 404-216-4445
www.georgiagolfconstruction.com

Excellent References

Only Rain Bird rotors feature Rain Curtain™ Nozzle Technology that delivers uniform water distribution across the entire radius range for green grass results. Gentle, effective close-in watering around the rotor eliminates dry spots without seed washout, and larger water droplets assure consistent coverage, even in the windiest conditions. Install Confidence. Install Rain Bird.

You’re Always Ahead of the Game with a COVERMASTER® Raincover...

“Great Service... The Best...”

written by Chip Baker, head Baseball Coach, Florida State University, Talleahsee, FL

Chip’s comments confirm what we hear from the many head groundskeepers who use a COVERMASTER® raincover to keep their fields dry and ready for play. Call us and we’ll gladly tell you more.

The COVERMASTER® Advantage...

- Superior in strength and UV resistance
- Outstanding heat reflective properties
- Light weight - easy to handle
- Widest materials for broad number of seams
- Largest choice of weights and colors
- Backed by truly dependable warranties

TARP MACHINE VIDEO!

Call, fax or e-mail for a free video, material samples and a brochure.

COVERMASTER™
504 S. 6th St.
Tempel City, TX 76501

COVERMASTER LLC.
100 Westmore Dr., 1-10
Randallville, OH 43067
Tel: 419-741-2008
Fax: 419-741-2008

COVERMASTER™

Install Confidence:
The The Competition

RAIN BIRD

Install Rain Curtain
Nozzle Technology.

PHILADELPHIA TURF COMPANY

Fifty-five dedicated people with the best parts, products and service for the green industry in Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and New Castle County, Delaware.

Phone: 215-345-7280
Fax: 215-345-6132
Web: www.phillyturf.com

Box 865
Shippensburg, PA 17257-0865
Doylestown, PA 18901-6865

November/December 2006
Gypsum is correctly used on sodic soils that have undergone a process of deflocculation. In this case, gypsum will likely improve soil structure and water infiltration. A brief review of soil cation exchange capacity (CEC) and soil aggregation may help you understand how this is actually accomplished by gypsum. There are many negatively (-) charged sites on the surface of clay particles. Some of the more important nutrients are positively charged (calcium $\text{Ca}^{++}$, magnesium $\text{Mg}^{++}$, iron $\text{Fe}^{++}$, and potassium $\text{K}^+$) and attach themselves to the negatively charged soil particles. These positively charged nutrients are called cations. The CEC is simply a measure of how many negative sites are available to attract the positively charged nutrients or cations.

Soil aggregation is another term you will need to understand to follow this discussion. Small individual soil particles are clumped together to form aggregates or “soil crumbs.” Calcium - gypsum is a source of calcium - can cause this granulation to inure in a process called flocculation, however flocculation alone does not make aggregates stable. Organic matter and other viscous microbial products stabilize soil aggregates. In a well aggregated soil there are larger voids between the “soil crumbs.” The larger voids or macro pores improve water infiltration.

Now, back to gypsum. The CEC sites in sodic soils are dominated by Na. Other cations that help soil aggregation, such as $\text{Ca}^{++}$ and $\text{Mg}^{++}$, are displaced by Na. The excessive sodium reverses the process of aggregation and causes the “soil crumbs” to disperse into individual soil particles. The deflocculation that occurs in sodic soils results in a very tight arrangement of individually dispersed soil particles saturated with Na. Macroporosity is greatly reduced and water infiltration slows to near zero. When wet, sodic soils are slick, sticky, and have poor drainage. When dry they become quite hard. Gypsum is correctly used to remedy this situation caused by excessive sodium in the soil. The $\text{Ca}^{++}$ in gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4$) displaces Na on the exchange site. The Na$^+$ reacts with sulfate ($\text{SO}_4^{2-}$) to form sodium sulfate ($\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$); a highly water soluble material that is leached from the soil. Removing Na$^+$ and replacing Ca$^{++}$ on the exchange site reduces deflocculation and allows natural aggregation of particles that eventually restores soil structure. Gypsum is very useful when soil structure deteriorates because of high Na$^+$.

The misconception arises when there is a belief that gypsum can improve structure and drainage in any heavy clay soil, even those not necessarily affected by Na$^+$. A Na$^+$ impact on soil structure that requires the application of gypsum only occurs on a small percentage of sports field soils. A soil test will determine the need for gypsum application. The problematic symptoms of sodic soils are very similar to those of heavily trafficked clay soils that are not affected by Na$^+$; both are hard and have poor structure and drainage. To add confusion, gypsum is often advertised as a “soil softener” material. Most soil scientists agree that gypsum will not be useful for improving poor permeability due to problems of soil texture, compaction, hardpans, claypans, or high water tables. Most sports field managers should not anticipate a reduction in compaction and improved drainage by using gypsum. Even with this misconception, there are situations where gypsum is useful in sports fields.

Gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4$) can be used to supply Ca. When pH is above 6.7 and Ca is deficient, gypsum instead of lime ($\text{CaCO}_3$), should be used to supply Ca. Lime applied to an already high pH would further increase pH and may lead to iron deficiency. Gypsum supplies Ca without increasing pH.

A suggested target range for Ca in the plant is 0.4 to 1.2%. Many water supplies are often high in Na$^+$. Sand based systems irrigated with high Na$^+$ water may have excessive Na$^+$ on the exchange complex. Since sands do not deflocculate, the high Na$^+$ in this case will not result in reduced drainage. Sands retain their macroporosity through particle size arrangement rather than by aggregation of particles. The high Na$^+$ irrigation water can easily displace Ca$^{++}$ and make it deficient in sandy soils with low CEC. Gypsum can be used in this case as a source of Ca$^{++}$. Testing both soil and plants associated with sand based sports turf has revealed that apparently adequate levels of Ca$^{++}$ in the rootzone have produced apparently deficient levels of Ca$^{++}$ in the plant. Application of gypsum in these situations increased plant calcium and improved turf growth (Dr. David York, personal communication 1998). Calcium availability, uptake, and effect on turfgrass performance in athletic fields continues to be evaluated.

Sodium Chloride (NaCl) is commonly used as a deicer for roadways and sidewalks. Soil Na levels may be elevated in grass areas adjacent to paved surfaces treated with NaCl for deicing. Gypsum may be helpful to remove excessive Na from the soil is this situation.

Dr. David D. Minner is Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Iowa State University; and Board Member, Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA).

**Dr. David D. Minner**
One of the major items that must be considered when planning the construction of a sports field is the aftercare and day-to-day maintenance. The sports field facility manager must consider the amount of use, equipment and manpower needs, budget limits and levels of service to be provided. Often this leads to a considerable investment. Rather than hiring new employees and obtaining new or specialized equipment, some facilities have found it to be cost effective to outsource some or all of their grounds maintenance services.

Outsourcing grounds maintenance services gives the sports field manager certain advantages. The primary reason for outsourcing is that it saves money. It is far less expensive to hire an outside service provider to provide an infrequent task using specialized equipment than to own the equipment and have it unproductive most of the year. Another consideration is that any new equipment must be stored somewhere and possibly transported to the work site, adding additional overhead and capital expenses. Payroll is usually one of the largest line item expenses. By outsourcing certain recurring tasks (such as mowing), labor and benefits costs can be more effectively managed.

Outsourcing simplifies and streamlines the basic operations. It allows the sports field manager to delegate certain tasks to an outside service provider and concentrate on the management of his or her sports field facility, rather than become mired in details. By eliminating certain distractions, outsourcing allows the sports field manager time to concentrate on core activities. Outsourcing allows the sports field manager an opportunity to focus on performance and allows the operation more flexibility if change is needed.

Outsourcing is only the provision of a service that can be contracted for, not the outcome. The ultimate accountability will always rest with the management. But, service providers become partners, bringing a creative approach and technical expertise to the table. They also share some of the risk. Because outsourcing relationships are results oriented, management role is now “what” issues, not “how” issues.

Outsourcing does have its disadvantages. The sports field manager could lose control of the process or lose focus on the core business and focus instead on the outsourcing process, resulting in poor performance or quality. There is a possibility of creating poor morale within your organization as current employees view the shift to outsourcing as an insult or a threat, possibly resulting in the loss of valuable, talented people. Your service provider could go out of business, or become too busy with other work and dilutes your service.

If outsourcing seems like a viable option for your situation, here are some Tips for Success:

1. Consider your budget, costs and needs as well as the scope of the work to be outsourced.
2. Make a strategic business decision.
3. Write clear, comprehensive contract specifications.
4. Establish a fair payment schedule.
5. Create contract administration process and structure.
6. Determine the appropriate structure of the contract documents.
7. Manage the transition to the outsourced arrangement.
8. Agree to contract termination arrangements.
9. Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

Remember that outsourcing is a tool that works well in many situations and poorly in others. Sports field managers must identify whatever operational approach will offer the most cost effective, highest quality service and best results in a manner that is consistent with their organization’s mission.

**References**

1. DeStefano, S. Contracting out Your Landscape Operations, Operational Guidelines for Grounds Management

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM), Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School, and SFMANJ Vice President.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Winter annuals are plants that initiate growth in the fall, live over winter, and die after producing seed the following season.
Seed and Fertilizer: How much was applied?

Brad Park*

Having been given the opportunity to travel throughout the Garden State and visit numerous sports fields over the last several years, this author has often encountered sports field managers who are either unaware of how much seed/fertilizer they are applying on a 1000 sq ft basis or believe they are applying a particular amount but in actuality are only applying a fraction.

The responsibility of fertilizer and seed applications are often left to a contractor. When asked how much seed/fertilizer was actually applied to a sports field, more often than not, the sports field manager is either unaware of the amount or he or she presents a scope of work developed the contractor with no certainty as to what rates were actually made, let alone, whether any application was made at all.

One way of sifting through all of this confusion is to simply know how much area requires treatment and the number of bags of specific material required to treat that area. Using seed as an example, a typical overseeding recommendation for perennial ryegrass is 6.0 lbs seed per 1000 sq ft. To seed the area between the hash marks on a high school football field (approximately 16200 sq ft) at this rate, approximately 97 lbs of seed are required (6.0 lbs x 16200 sq ft) / 1000 sq ft = 97.2 lbs). Seed is typically sold in 50.0-lb bags; therefore two (2) 50.0-lb bags of seed are required for order to complete this overseeding operation.

Applied fertilizer amounts can be calculated in a similar manner. Assume 0.75 lbs nitrogen (N) per 1000 sq ft specified to be applied to an entire football field and the material to be used has an analysis of 35-0-0. This fertilizer contains 35% N, 0% phosphate (P₂O₅), and 0% potash (K₂O). A football field (including endzones) is 57600 sq ft. To apply 0.75 lb N per 1000 sq ft using a material that contains 35% N, 2.1 lbs of this fertilizer must be applied per 1000 sq ft (0.75 lbs N / 0.35 lbs N per 1 lb fertilizer = 2.1 lbs fertilizer). To treat the football field at the desired rate, 121 lbs of the 35-0-0 fertilizer must be applied to the field (2.1 lbs x 57600 sq ft)/1000 sq ft = 123 lbs). Fertilizer is typically sold in 50.0-lb bags; hence, three (3) 50.0-lb bags will be required for order and approximately two-and-one-half (2.5) bags will be required to treat the field at the 0.75 lbs N per 1000 sq ft rate.

One way of exercising oversight on contracted work is to request to see the number of fertilizer and/or seed bags used to treat a sports field. Knowing the specified application rate, the area to receive the application, and, in the case of fertilizer, either the specified analysis or the analysis utilized by the contractor, one can calculate the amount of material required.

*Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

SHEA STADIUM: DID YOU KNOW?

Shea Stadium is located at 123-01 Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing, NY and can be reached by the No. 7 NYC Subway train.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 566 municipalities in New Jersey - all of which are members of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.
Call for a Catalog or Inquiries.

TERRA has a full line of Sports Turf Products

- infilfill Clay Mixes
- Turf Surface Soil Conditioners
- Grass Seed
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Top Dressing
- Rubber Mulch
- Turf Blankets
- Marking Paints

Keep your Ballfields safe and looking great!!!

Telephone: (973) 473-3393
Fax: (973) 473-4402

The Terra Co. of N.J., Inc.
2019 Pennsylvania Avenue
Clifton, NJ 07014

Do Your Athletic Fields Need Turf Blankets?

Jim Hermann, CSFM*

Give your turf a jump-start in the early spring by installing turf blankets. Understanding the principles involved in soil temperature manipulation is a key component in getting the most benefit out of your turf blankets.

The basic concept behind utilization of turf blankets is to increase average soil temperatures beneath the blanket at an accelerated rate as compared to unblanketed turf areas. This increase in soil temperature stimulates an earlier growth response in the turf.

Soil surface temperatures respond closely to what could be called the temperature budget. If more heat is gained in the soil than is lost there is a net rise in temperature. If more heat is lost from the soil than is gained there is a net loss in temperature. There are two major recurring heat cycles that have the greatest affect on soil surface temperature: diurnal and annual. We are all very familiar with both of these cycles although many of us have not been formally introduced.

The diurnal cycle or period consists of the daytime warming and nighttime cooling of the soil throughout the year. This warming and cooling of the soil is stimulated by variations in radiation from the sun. The sun comes up during the day and it warms up. The sun goes down at night and it cools down.

The annual cycle or period is the result of seasonal changes in temperature due to seasonal variations in the sun’s radiation. Basically, in our area there is an increase in radiation from the sun, which starts after December 22nd, “winter solstice.” This is the shortest day of the year. This is the day with the least amount of daylight for the entire year.

After the winter solstice, the sun’s radiation increases and soon begins to provide enough energy to start to warm the soil surface. Although these increases start in December, the effects are not readily noticeable until mid to late February. This is the time of year when daytime temperatures typically rise above freezing and nighttime temperatures fall below freezing. Turf blankets should be installed by this period in time until mid to late February. This is the time of year when daytime temperatures typically rise above freezing and nighttime temperatures fall below freezing.

Turf blankets should be removed during the day to accomplish mowing and replaced at night until the threat of frost is passed, in an attempt to acclimate the turf to normal seasonal temperatures and minimize frost damage. Late frost on sensitive turf can burn the leaf tissue and counteract early gains in turf development. Although a minor setback, turf generally recovers from frost burn with little or no long lasting ill affects.

Put your ad here:
To become a Proud Sponsor Call 908-730-7770

covermaster.com • info@covermaster.com

Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, NJ 07838
Fax (908) 637-8421, partac@goes.com

800-387-5808 • Fax 416-742-6837
(800) 247-BEAM, (908) 637-4191

FISHER AND SON CO., INC.
Website: www.benshaffer.com

FISHER AND SON CO., INC.
Website: www.benshaffer.com

Your turf is Your Team's Friend!

* Jim Hermann is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); President, Total Control Inc.; and Board Member, SFMANJ

DO YOU KNOW?
The turf course at Monmouth Park Racetrack has four movable rail prizes (inside rail, 12.0-ft., 24.0-ft., and 36.0-ft.) to manage turfgrass damage caused by the neighboring racing.